

5700 BC

TEHUACAN valley, Mexico
They began to domesticate corn.
The original cobs were tiny.

The earliest type of corn found
was in its primitive form,
close to its tiny wild ancestor.

The people were gradually improving
corn by careful breeding.

By 2000 BC; corn was about $\frac{1}{2}$ of present
size

5,700 BC

Maize was domesticated

5700 BC

THE MUTANT CORN

The grass TEOSINTE grows wild in Middle America. Its name means "God's Corn" in the Aztec language and it makes good popcorn. Modern Corn or maize, derives from a mutation in TEOSINTE that gave rise to soft-cored kernels. Amerindian evidently spotted and nurtured this mutant

form and they were cultivating primitive
corn in TEHUACÁN region of Mexico
by 5700 BC.